

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented): A method of compiling aerial imagery and generating a map therefrom comprising:

segmenting image data into a plurality of patches, the image data acquired from an aerial platform;

digitally watermarking the image data to include imagery characteristics corresponding to the image data, wherein said digital watermarking comprises embedding a watermark in each of the plurality of patches, the watermark including imagery characteristics for its respective patch;

correlating the image data based on the imagery characteristics; and generating a map from the correlated image data.

4. (original): The method according to claim 3, wherein said correlating step comprises adjusting image characteristics for at least one of the plurality of patches so that at least two adjacently positioned patches have similar imagery characteristics.

5. (currently amended): The method according to claim 3, wherein said generating step comprises the step of quilting the plurality of patches together to generate the map.

6. (previously presented): The method according to claim 3, wherein the aerial platform comprises at least one of satellite, airplane, space shuttle, and unmanned aircraft.

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented): A method of generating a geo-spatial map comprising: steganographically encoding data in the form of a digital watermark component in each of a plurality of image patches, said encoded data including a location indicator; and piecing together the plurality of image patches based at least in part on the encoded location indicators to provide a geo-spatial map including the plurality of image patches.

10. (currently amended): The method according to claim 9, wherein the location indicator identifies the geo-coordinates of its respective image patch, with each of the plurality of image patches including a unique location identifier representing unique geo-coordinates.

11. (previously presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the location indicators identifies the geo-coordinates for at least one corner of its respective patch.

12. (previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the location indicator identifies a respective patch location relative to the map.

13. (currently amended): The method according to claim 9, wherein the location indicator identifies ~~a~~ the respective patch location within the geo-spatial map relative to at least one adjacent patch.

14. (currently amended): The method according to claim 9, wherein the location indicator comprises an index, and said method further comprises ~~the step of~~ indexing a database with the index to retrieve location information.

15. (previously presented): A method of correlating imagery data generated under a plurality of different conditions, said method comprising:
embedding imagery characteristics in the imagery data; and
modifying the imagery data based on the embedded imagery characteristics so as to standardize at least some of the imagery data.

16. (previously presented): The method according to claim 15, wherein said conditions comprise at least one of aerial platforms, altitude, time, cloud cover, resolution and scale.

17. (previously presented): The method according to claim 15, wherein said imagery characteristics affect a spatial domain representation of the imagery data, said imagery characteristics comprising at least one of scale, rotation, altitude, attitude, resolution, time, imaging device type, and skew.

18. (original): The method according to claim 15, wherein said imagery characteristics comprise an index which is used to identify at least one of scale, rotation, altitude, attitude, resolution, time, imaging device type, and skew.

19-40 (canceled)

41. (currently amended): A method of making a map, wherein the map depicts at least a first region and a second region, said method comprising:

obtaining first geolocation information corresponding to at least the a-first region to be depicted by the map; and

digitally watermarking the first geolocation information in the map, wherein said watermarking step comprises embedding the first geolocation information only in the first region.

42. (currently amended): The method according to claim 41, further comprising obtaining second geolocation information corresponding to at least ~~the~~ a second region to be depicted by the map and digitally watermarking the second geolocation information in the map.

43. (previously presented): The method according to claim 42, wherein said the second geolocation information is only embedded in the second region.

44. (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein the first region comprises at least one of a fire hydrant, tree, road, building, lake, stream, forest, manhole, water line, gas line, power line, park, property line, fence, boarder, depot, geographical area, stadium, hospital, school, church, store and airport.

45. (previously presented): A method of making a map comprising:
obtaining first geovector information corresponding to at least a first region to be depicted by the map; and
digitally watermarking the first geovector information in the map, wherein said watermarking step comprises digitally watermarking the first geovector information redundantly throughout the map.

46. (canceled)

47. (canceled)

48. (previously presented): A method of steganographically marking imagery captured from an aerial platform, said method comprising:

obtaining first geolocation information corresponding to a first region depicted in the imagery captured from the aerial platform;

embedding the first geolocation information in the first region in the form of a digital watermark;

obtaining second geolocation information corresponding to at least a second region depicted in the imagery captured from the aerial platform; and

embedding the second geolocation information in the imagery captured from the aerial platform in the form of a digital watermark.

49. (previously presented): The method according to claim 48, wherein the second geolocation information is embedded only in the second region.

50. (previously presented): A method of steganographically marking imagery captured from an aerial platform, said method comprising:

obtaining first geolocation information corresponding to a first region depicted in the imagery captured from the aerial platform;

embedding the first geolocation information in the imagery captured from the aerial platform in the form of a digital watermark, wherein the first geolocation information is redundantly embedded in the imagery captured from the aerial platform.